

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Ruch, et al.  
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING BONES IN A  
HEALING POSITION  
Application No.: 10/712,574  
Filed: November 13, 2003  
Group Art Unit: 3733  
Examiner: Michael J. Araj  
Atty. Docket No.: 24179785.010031

Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

**I. Introductory Comments**

The present paper is being submitted in response to the Non-Final Office Action mailed April 8, 2008 ("Office Action"). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in light of the accompanying amendments and remarks. A two-month extension of time is hereby requested, making the responsive date September 8, 2008. Accordingly, this filing is timely.

**Listing of Claims** begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 11 of this paper.